

## CLAIMS

1. A method for separating bast fibers existing in a bast of a bast plant, characterized by comprising a first step for separating the bast plant into the bast and a core, a second step for pressing the bast separated from the core, and a third step for immersing the pressed bast in an aqueous solution in order to decompose a gum existing in the bast and bonding the bast fibers to each other.
2. A method for separating the bast fibers as defined in claim 1, characterized in that said second step presses the bast in a thickness direction of the bast fibers.
3. A method for separating the bast fibers as defined in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that said second step is a roller pressing step that is performed by passing the bast between rollers or between a roller and a flat die.
4. A method for separating the bast fibers as defined in claim 3, characterized in that a surface of the roller or the flat die is formed with convex-concave portions in order to flaw a surface of the bast in the roller pressing step.
5. A method for separating the bast fibers as defined in claim 3 or 4, characterized in that said roller pressing step includes a plurality of rollers that are disposed successively in multiple stages along a direction that said bast is conveyed, and a plurality of rollers or flat dies that are disposed in multiple stages so as to respectively face said respective rollers, in order to roller press said bast by conveying said bast between said respective rollers and the rollers or flat dies, and that distances between respective surfaces of said rollers facing each other or distances between surfaces of the rollers and surfaces of the flat dies reduce from an inlet side toward an outlet side along the conveying direction.
6. A method for separating the bast fibers as defined in any of claims 1 to 5, characterized by comprising a fourth step for washing the bast by spraying a aqueous solution against the bast at a pressure of 7 MPa or more after the third step.
7. A method for separating the bast fibers as defined in any of claims 1 to 6,

characterized in that, in said third step, the bast is immersed in an aqueous solution containing microorganisms that can decompose the gum, the aqueous solution is circulated so as to flow in the bast portion and is aerated, and a solid substance is collected at a position spaced apart from the bast.

8. A method for separating the bast fibers as defined in any of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that, in said third step, the bast is put in a container formed from a perforated member, and the container is immersed in an aqueous solution containing microorganisms that can decompose the gum in a manner that a part of the container is exposed above a surface of the aqueous solution and is rotated therein.

9. A method for separating the bast fibers as defined in any of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that the bast is cut in a longitudinal direction prior to the third step.